



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0380

**PHIL BREDESEN**  
GOVERNOR

**LANA C. SEIVERS, Ed.D.**  
COMMISSIONER

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** General Education Teachers, Administrators, Music, Art, PE and all related arts teachers, Inclusion Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Parents  
**FROM:** Linda Copas, Director of Behavior/Autism Services  
**DATE:** January 11, 2006  
**RE:** "Making Special Classes Special" Full Day Autism Workshop

Students with autism spectrum disorders are often included in related arts classes. Unfortunately, related arts teachers and staff do not always receive the necessary preparation to support these students in their classes. This workshop will increase your understanding of autism and provide basic strategies for addressing the needs of students with autism in related arts classes such as art, music, physical education, library, and guidance.

Who should attend this workshop? All related arts providers, administrators, paraprofessionals, parents, and general education teachers who have children with autism included in their class.

This no-cost, full day workshop, which begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:30, will focus on supporting children with autism in related arts classes. You can call me if you have questions or e-mail me at [Linda.Copas@state.tn.us](mailto:Linda.Copas@state.tn.us) 615-741-7790. To register, find the region in which you wish to attend and call the person listed below. They will need to know your name, position, county or school system, and the date of the workshop for which you are registering. There will be **no return confirmations** due to the volume of calls which we receive.

**Middle TN**      **February 8, 2006**      Call Sophia Matthews at 615-741-3773  
**Location:** Tennessee School for the Blind (Auditorium)  
115 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville

**East TN**      **February 15, 2006**      Call Geneva Looney at 865- 594-5691  
**Location:** University Center, UTK, Knoxville

**West TN**      **March 1, 2006**      Call Tami Henry at 731-421-5074  
**Location:** Jackson State Community College  
Ayers Auditorium  
2046 North Parkway, Jackson, TN